

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON TURKEY AT PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE,
OCTOBER 29

LONDON FOR HARTMAN

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF
THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON ON
OCTOBER 29.

QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, IN OKLAHOMA CITY, YOU SAID THAT
OVERWHELMING VICTORIES IN CONGRESS THIS FALL BY THE OPPOSI-
TION PARTY, BEING THE DEMOCRATS, WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE
WORLD PEACE. THIS IS OUR FIRST CHANCE TO QUESTION YOU ON
THAT. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD ELABORATE ON THAT.
DID YOU MEAN IT IN THE SENSE THAT SOME DEMOCRATS ACCUSED
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YOU OF DEMAGOGUERY OR IS THIS CONSISTENT WITH YOUR ORIGIN-

AL ANNOUNCED POLICY THAT YOU WERE GOING TO TRY TO UNIFY THE COUNTRY AFTER WATERGATE?

THE PRESIDENT: I THINK THE FACTS THAT I REFERRED TO INVOLVED THE CONFLICT WE HAD WITH A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE OVER THE LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS THEY PUT ON THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION. THOSE LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON THAT PARTICULAR PIECE OF LEGISLATION, IN MY JUDGMENT AND IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE SECRETARY

OF STATE, WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO HELP THE GREEKS. IT WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO WORK TO BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE CYPRUS MATTER.

THAT CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATION WILL NOT HELP OUR RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.

I POINT OUT THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY ARE MEMBERS OF NATO AND IF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY IS DESTROYED OR HARMED, IT WILL HURT OUR INTEREST AS WELL AS NATOS.

SECONDLY, WE DO HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY AS TO SOME MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND THOSE INSTALLATIONS ARE IMPORTANT FOR BOTH TURKEY AND OURSELVES AND IF, THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, WE UNDERCUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY, HURT OUR RELATIONS WITH NATO, HURT THE GREEKS BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS MATTER, THEN I THINK THE CONGRESS HAS MADE A MISTAKE AND IF A CONGRESS THAT IS MORE PRONE TO DO THAT IS ELECTED ON NOVEMBER 5TH, IT WILL MAKE OUR EFFORTS MUCH HARDER TO EXECUTE AND IMPLEMENT FOREIGN POLICY TO BUILD FOR PEACE AND MAINTAIN THE PEACE.

AS MR. NESSEN EXPLAINED IN A SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, I WAS REFERRING AS MUCH TO REPUBLICANS AS I WAS TO DEMOCRATS WHO DON'T COOPERATE IN GIVING A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN FOREIGN POLICY.
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A PRESIDENT HAS TO BE ABLE TO ACT. HE HAS TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH ALLIES AND WITH SOME POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES AND IF THE CONGRESS IS GONG TO SO LIMIT A PRESIDENT, WHETHER HE IS A DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN, THAT HE HAS NO FLEXIBILITY, IN MY OPINION, THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN POLICY IS HARMED CONSIDERABLY. INGERSOLL

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